


# Steele County Ducks Unlimited

## 47th Annual Fall Duck Bash



Thursday, September 26, 2019

Foundation Building  
Steele County Fairgrounds  
North of the Softball Fields  
Owatonna, MN 55060

Doors open at 5:00pm | Dinner at 6:00pm  
BRING A FRIEND!

•FOUNDATION BUILDING at FAIRGROUNDS•

2 FREE kegs of beer!

Wear camo or blaze orange for a FREE gun raffle!

Ticket includes event attendance, dinner, pop,  
and a one-year Ducks Unlimited membership!

Sponsor Ticket includes 1 entry into the sponsor drawing,  
a Duck Buck Pack, a framed print, and an invitation  
to the 2020 Sponsor Dinner!

Ticket Pricing

\$45 Single	\$300 Sponsor
\$65 Couple	\$320 Sponsor Couple
\$20 Greenwing	\$50 Duck Bucks (\$55)

Ducks Unlimited is the world's largest non-profit organization dedicated to conserving North America's continually disappearing waterfowl habitats. Established in 1937, Ducks Unlimited has conserved more than 14 million acres thanks to contributions from over one million supporters across the continent. Guided by science and dedicated to program efficiency, DU works toward the vision of wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow, and forever.

For more information on our work,  
visit [www.ducks.org](http://www.ducks.org). Connect with us on  
Facebook at [facebook.com/ducksunlimited](https://facebook.com/ducksunlimited),  
follow our tweets at [twitter.com/ducksunlimited](https://twitter.com/ducksunlimited)  
and watch DU videos at [youtube.com/ducksunlimitedinc](https://youtube.com/ducksunlimitedinc).

RESERVE YOUR  
TICKETS NOW!

For more information or to buy tickets online,  
visit [www.ducks.org/Minnesota/events](http://www.ducks.org/Minnesota/events).

# Church of All Saints

New Richland, Mn

## Fall Festival

Saturday, September 28, 2019

Polka Mass at 4:00 P.M.  
By Dan Stursa Band

Smoked Pulled Pork Sandwich with au GRATINS, beans,  
coleslaw, dessert  
From 5 to 6:30 P.M.

Tickets \$8, Children under 5 \$3  
Take out meals available -Saturday 507 465 8381

Family Fun 3 to 7:30 P.M. under the Big Tent  
Silent Auction Bingo Raffle Country Store  
Cherished Treasures Table  
Outdoor Games  
Handicap Accessible

end destination, even Minnesota's North Shore. In the past year, several fast charger stations were installed along I-35 and Highway 61, opening up this family-favorite destination to those with a plug-in vehicle. With your Outlander PHEV, you'll have plenty of cargo space to store camping and hiking gear, snacks and more—along with 1,500 pounds of towing capacity so you can bring along bicycles, kayaks or even a pop-up camper.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tax credit ranges from \$2,500 to \$7,500 per new EV purchased for use in the U.S. The phase out of the Plug-In Electric Vehicle credit began on Jan. 1, 2019, and after Dec. 31 of this year, the credit will no longer be available. For more information, visit [energy.gov/eere/electric-vehicles/electric-vehicles-tax-credits-and-other-incentives](http://energy.gov/eere/electric-vehicles/electric-vehicles-tax-credits-and-other-incentives).

For rebates available through Steele-Waseca, visit [swce.coop](http://swce.coop), click on REBATES/PROGRAMS, under "Electric Vehicle Rebate," click on "ChargeWise Program Information." 31505

(EVs continued from Page 3)

# It's a Match!



Off-roader      Outlander PHEV

- You're not ready to commit to an all-electric car, it's the best of both worlds  
- You love camping on the North Shore, it can make it there and tow up to 1,500 pounds of gear



the power of human connections

# sparks

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric      September 2019

inside connections

- 2 Manager Connection
- 3 Wolters on SWCE career
- 4 Electric vehicle options
- 4 Cookin' Connection
- 5 SWCE community solar update
- 5 SWCE mayday drill report
- 5 Members alert SWCE to scams
- 5 Fall Ham Supper in Medford
- 5 Oktoberfest in Owatonna
- 6 Ad Connection
- 4-Seasons Vacations
- 7 Ad Connection
- Benefits of tree trimming
- 8 Steele County Ducks Unlimited
- annual Fall Duck Bash
- Church of All Saints Fall Festival

calendar of events

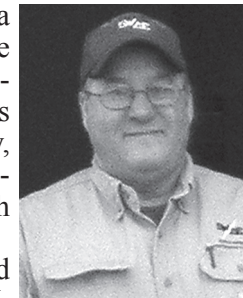
September

- 2 Labor Day
- SWCE office closed
- 4-8 The Defeat of Jesse James Days, Northfield
- 7-8 Mantorville Marigold Days
- 8 Grandparents Day
- 11 Patriot Day
- 20 National POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 23 First day of autumn
- 26 Steele County Ducks Unlimited Fall Bash, Owat.
- 28 Church of All Saints Fall Festival, New Richland
- Trinity Lutheran Church
- 29 Fall Ham Supper, Medford
- Oktoberfest at St. John Lutheran Church, Owat.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's wholesale energy provider, Great River Energy (GRE), is planning to conduct an over-the-phone member research project, through a survey company, starting after Labor Day. GRE has conducted this biennial survey since 2008. It allows them to measure shifts in public opinions on key issues and better understand attitudes on key energy policy issues.

Line Foreman Jim Wolters retires after 43-year career with Steele-Waseca

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric Line Foreman Jim Wolters retired Monday, July 8, after a 43-year career with the co-op.



Jim Wolters

Having started on June 8, 1976, Jim was asked if he still remembered his first day on the job as a truck driver/groundman.

"I remember going out in Richland Township. Were plowing a mile stretch on it," reflected Jim.

He recalled his interest in electricity started to develop while in 4-H, and his mother, LaVonne, was working at Steele-Waseca. "I gave a demonstration about electricity. She knew a little bit about it, and she researched it and helped me with it, and put together a program. I don't remember how old I was," said Jim, "I think it got a blue ribbon on it."

As he was nearing graduation from high school, Jim decided to pursue an electrical career, "I was interested in electricity," said Jim. "You know it's something unique. I thought the guys climbing poles were pretty cool. So we started checking out different trade schools. So I didn't want to go to the Cities, so I went to Jackson, applied and I got in there." 25044

Wolters considered himself fortunate to be hired by Steele-Waseca. "I went through school and then we applied different places, and naturally I wanted to stay here if I could. You know all my friends were here, family, and so I applied here and luckily they hired two guys," said Jim. "There was two guys going to retire, Percy Giesler and Floyd Schuster, so they hired me and Paul Hoffman, and then they didn't hire anybody for—I think the next one they hired was like eight years later, so it was

(Jim Wolters retirement continued on Page 3)

There's an EV for everyone (including you)

Electric vehicles (EVs) are no longer a transportation option of the future. They're here, now, available to lease or purchase—and there is likely one that fits the bill for your lifestyle.

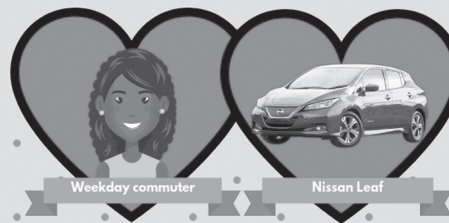
Whether you're a commuter who enjoys the occasional trip up to the North Shore or the type who stays close to home, there are enough options today to suit every kind of driver.

Weekday commuter

If you're the type of person who travels to work five days a week and makes a few extra trips per week around the city to check out a museum, concert or just go grocery shopping, a switch to the all-electric 2019 Nissan Leaf makes the most sense for you.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, it takes an average of 21 minutes for Minnesotans who com-

# It's a Match!



Weekday commuter      Nissan Leaf

- You commute 40 miles per day, it has 151 miles of all-electric range

mute via car or truck—which makes up about 80 percent of workers in the state—to get to their job. This model of Leaf offers 150 miles of range, meaning you wouldn't need to recharge every day just to make it to and from the office.

If you wanted to, though, you could plug it right into the same kind of sock-

(EVs continued on Page 3)



Published monthly by  
Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric  
2411 W Bridge Street, PO Box 485  
Owatonna MN 55060-0485

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

Website: [www.swce.coop](http://www.swce.coop)  
Email: [swce@swce.coop](mailto:swce@swce.coop)  
Fax: 507-446-4242



### Board of Directors

PJ Duchene ..... District 1  
Geraldine Lienke ..... District 2  
Duane Edwardson, *Chaplain* . District 3  
Dennis Ringhofer ..... District 4  
Rodney Krell ..... District 5  
Gary Wilson ..... District 6  
*President, GRE Director*

John Beal, *Vice President* . . . District 7  
Ronald Sommers ..... District 8  
*Assistant Secretary/Treasurer*  
Renee Malecha ..... District 9  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

### Management

Syd Briggs ..... *General Manager*

### Division Managers

Darla DeVries ..... *Office*  
David Lundberg ..... *Finance*  
Kim Huxford ..... *Operations*

### Office Hours

8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

### Operations Office Hours

8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

### For Customer Service, Billing Questions and Power Outages Phone:

507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514

### Before calling to report an outage

1. Check fuses and circuit breakers in your home and on meter pole.
2. Check with your neighbors to see if they have power.
3. Look for possible causes such as a tree branch on wires, a broken pole, twisted wires, etc.

### To leave a non-emergency message whenever SWCE's Office is closed:

Phone 507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514 and listen to the prompts. Please have your account number, phone number, and name on the account available.

Call *Before* You Dig  
Gopher State One Call  
811 or 800-252-1166  
48-hour notice required for **ALL** underground cable locations

## manager connection



By Syd Briggs,  
General Manager

One of the best business structures in the world is the cooperative structure.

To some it may seem like an unusual way to do business, unless you live in Minnesota where there are over 1,000 cooperatives; more cooperatives than in any other state in the nation.

Cooperatives provide a multitude of products and services such as: utilities, agricultural products, living accommodations, phone services, clothes, camping equipment, financial services, etc. The most common type of cooperative is the “member-owned” cooperative; however, there are also “worker-owned,” “producer,” and several other types. Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric is, of course, a “member-owned” cooperative and therefore regulated by a board of directors of members currently receiving power from the cooperative.

Steele-Waseca doesn’t take for granted what it means to be different from other electric providers. We appreciate and embrace our differences because it means we can serve you, our member-owner, in a manner that best meets your needs. While there are dozens of positive ways electric cooperatives differ from other utilities, everything we do revolves around our unique business model and our local, not-for-profit structure.

Like all electric cooperatives in the state, Steele-Waseca is owned by our members who may be our neighbors, friends, and community residents. Because of this member-ownership structure, the directors you elect to govern the cooperative are entrusted to make decisions in the best interests of our local and rural communities. 108227

This type of self-governance is successful in many forms—through schools, churches, credit unions, and various types of cooperatives. While this struc-

ture allows for local decision-making, it’s imperative to recognize self-governed organizations—including Steele-Waseca—must adhere to all local, state, and federal laws and regulations. Electric cooperatives are, in fact, significantly regulated.

We have considerable oversight through hundreds of Minnesota statutes, and by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC). We follow Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations, National Electrical Safety Code® standards, and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations, to name just a few. Where PUC regulation primarily differs for electric cooperatives versus utilities is in rate regulation. The PUC plays a regulatory role for investor-owned utilities (IOUs) in the rate-making process to provide checks and balances between shareholders and ratepayers. Without this oversight, it could be in the IOUs interest to charge as high of rates as possible to return profits to their shareholders.

Because the board members, who are setting rates for Steele-Waseca, are also members and users of co-op generated electricity, there is no benefit in charging any more than necessary for power. Steele-Waseca undertakes extensive cost-of-service studies to ensure rates are appropriate and adequate to solely cover the costs of providing service.

To govern effectively, Steele-Waseca’s directors bring a diverse and well-rounded background to the boardroom. Our directors have financial skills, industry knowledge, an understanding of regulatory and legislative policymaking, and an aptitude for determining the ongoing and future strategic direction of the cooperative.

Since 1936, the cooperative business model and core principles have been guiding us as we make long-term decisions to ensure reliable, safe, affordable energy for our member-owners. We’re proud of our track record of powering homes, businesses, schools, and other essential services in our communities. If you have questions about our policies, or our cooperative structure, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

## ad connection

(For Sale ads continued from Page 6)

**AMERICAN SAANEN DAIRY GOATS**, in milk & April doe kids, \$250/goat. 456-3838.

**HVY DUTY TRAILER**, 8'x16'. (2) 7500-lb. axles, new tires, \$1700; **SCOOTER**, 150cc, \$400; **WHEEL-HOUSE FISH HOUSE**, 6x10, gd shell, needs floor, \$350. 456-9145.

**TREE TRIMMING, REMOVAL, & STUMP GRIND.**, pro climber & aerial lift to U of M guidelines; **FRONT CHROME BUMPER** for an F-650, new. 456-1609.

**2000 FORD RANGER**, 4.0, auto, 4x4, 4-door, 129,000 mi., \$2500; **1993 HONDA GOLD WING ASPENCADE**, \$3000. 271-3278.

**FARMALL-CUB** w/belly mower & C-H & super M.T.A.; **14' LUND BOAT, MOTOR & TRAILER**. 595-3656.

**FORTUNE CREEK TRL LOTS**, covenant allows for a pole shed, starting at \$75,000. 838-5033/John.

**YAMAHA VINO CLASSIC SCOOTER**, silver, like new, 1400-mi., \$1000/firm. 334-3804.

**1995 INNSBRUCK 20' CAMPER**, rear bunks, everything wrks gd, \$2800. 334-2673.

**SHINGLING, LIGHT CONSTRUCTION, & TREE REMOVAL**, free estimates. 456-0296.

(2) **BOAT SEATS** w/pedestals, never used, \$30/each. 465-8566.

**MEAT CHICKENS**, 6- to 8-lbs. dressed, local, free range & feeder, organic, great for BBQ or smoking, \$10 per bird. 649-0679.

**AUCTION**, Sun., Aug. 25, 10:30, 2359 64th Ave. NE, 5-mi. east of Owat., incl. Lund fish. boat, 25-hp Johnson motor, Oliver 88 tractor w/3-pt, DEWALT® 10" table saw, 3-hp, 220-phase; lots of misc. 451-9445.

**1996 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE**, 117,000-mi., gd cond., great tires; (2) **LA-Z-BOY RECLINERS**, great shape, \$25/each; **TABLE & (4) CHAIRS** on wheels, \$40/obo. 479-0576 or 451-0226.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric (SWCE) assumes no liability for the content of, or reply to, any item posted. The party posting any advertisement assumes complete liability for the content of, and all replies to, any advertisement and for any claims against SWCE as a result thereof, and agrees to indemnify and hold SWCE harmless from all costs, expenses, liabilities and damages resulting from, or caused by, any advertisement or reply thereto.

(Mayday drill continued from Page 5)

call to Mayo Medical Services at Mayo Clinic, the experts on what to do if a victim is unconscious from a possible electric shock. We listened to them give instructions over the phone, and it was unbelievably professional. They directed us saying, ‘You cannot go near this vehicle because you don’t know if the electricity is on.’ They have the smarts to do that, where our local 911 center might not.” The drill led Jack to begin electrical training for their local 911 dispatch centers, and now, several dispatchers understand the correct way to instruct people when they’re in a car accident involving electrical wires.

(Scam attempts continued from Page 5)

contact their respective utility to verify account status and report the attempted scam. They are also encouraged to report the incident to local law enforcement.

Never give out personal information or credit card numbers, or wire money as a result of an unexpected or unsolicited call, or email, if you can’t validate the authenticity. Also, end the call if the caller is insisting on the use of a pre-paid debit card or an immediate payment. **SWCE**

**ELEC. STOVE**, blk, works gd, \$150/obo; **20-GAL. FISH TANK, HEATER, FILTER**, & the works, used 2-mths, \$100. 210-2610.

**1940s FARMALL H TRACTOR** w/loader, bucket, tire chains, & snow cab, stored inside, \$1000/obo; **LP DRYER**, like new, \$75/obo. 491-9259.

**GRAVITY WAGON**, 190-bu., \$400/obo; **ELEC. AU-GER**, 4"x15', \$50/obo. 465-8483.

**1993 CARAVELLE RUNABOUT**, 5.0L Cobra, 478 engine hrs, 19', trailer included, gd cond., \$4500. 651-246-8229.

**BLK ANGUS BEEF**: qtrs, halves, or whole avail., semi-organically & locally raised. 330-2452/Matt.

**MINI STORAGE AVAIL. IN FBO**: 6'x8', \$49/mth; 10'x24', \$125/mth; **MINI STORAGE AVAIL. IN MORRISTWN**, 10'x20', \$99/mth. 333-0319.

**WORKBENCH**, large; **VINTAGE COUCH & CHAIR** (redone); **BEER SIGNS**, old; **LIFE MAGAZINES**, 1946-49; **OAKWOOD INTERIORS 7-DRAWER DRESSR & KING-SZ SLEIGH BED**. 612-827-6575.

**JD 6620 COMBINE**, 918 bean head, 643 corn head. 583-2026.

**WINTEC SADDLE**, 16" seat, Pro Choice pad, leather bridle w/shack & a bit, \$400 for all or will sell separate. 330-2768.

**SHIPPING CONTAINERS**, 20' & 40', store your stuff in rodent- & moisture-proof containers on your own property. 612-418-4375.

**PLASTIC BIN**, 32W, 48L, 39H, large, blue, on wheels, (2) lids. 663-1275.

(2) **CEMETERY LOTS** at Memorial Gardens, Owat., \$300/each. 451-3462.

**2001 DODGE**, diesel, 4x4, 147K-mi., no rust, \$10,000; **CASE 1845C**, s loader, new tires w/forks, \$16,000. 330-3945.

**CANNING JARS**. 213-7978 or 475-1311.

**SHEETROCK LIFT**, new, \$125; (30) **RUBBER POSTS**, 4x4x8, \$10/each. 612-245-2728/Fbo.

**WEIDER XC-1 SKI MASTER CROSS COUNTRY SKIER MACHINE**, best offer. 838-8792.

**JD 6300 MFW TRACTOR** w/640 loader, \$20,000; **JD 3010**, gas w/loader, all restored, \$8500. 384-7553.

**1500# ALUM. BOAT LIFT** w/canopy & wheels, avail. after Sept. 6, on French Lk, \$1000. 357-4796.

**RABBITS**, purebred & papered, Silver Fox & Stand. Rex, blue lilac, broken lilac, & brokn blue. 475-1353.

**1998 KIOTI LK3054 TRACTOR**, needs clutch adjustment, \$4500; **2-14 MOUNTED PLOW**, \$300; **5' TILLER**, \$900. 330-1745.

**2007 H-D ROAD KING CLASSIC**, 96-cu.-in., 6-spd, vry nice, \$7600. 456-5345.

**AUSTRALIAN SHEP. PUPS; ALUM. 3-HORSE SLANT KIEFER TRAILER** w/tack/changing room; **HORSE ROUND BALE FEEDER, V-FEEDERS**, & other feeders. 475-2509.

**CIRCLE LK LOT**, 0.7-acres. 470-262-7696.

**PICKUP TOPPER**, red; **8' BOX** for Ford Super Duty, best offer. 990-2803.

**SHOREMASTER 2596 CANTILEVER BOAT LIFT**, 2500-lb. capacity, new cover, \$2300; **POWER LIFT RECLINER**, beige, \$140. 334-6362.

(8) **TIRES**, size 8-25-20, (6) w/rims, (2) are new, (6) are in gd shape. 413-3266.

(1) **LED BULB, GET (5) FREE** for SWCE members at [energywisemnstore.com](http://energywisemnstore.com) through Sept. 30, 2019. Sign in or create an Energy Wise MN Store account to complete your purchase. 451-7340/Cindy.

**FEATHERLITE HORSE TRAILER**, like new, 3-horse w/tack room. 456-1584/Dawn/leave message.

**2015 PORTA-DOCK POST DOCK**, alum., 56' incl. 8' ramp + boat lift, \$4000. 213-0334.

## BENEFITS OF TREE TRIMMING

Clearing trees and overgrown vegetation is vital to provide safe, reliable power to our consumer-members.

We clear certain areas in our service territory, known as rights of way, to:

- Keep power lines clear of tree limbs
- Restore power outages more quickly
- Keep crews and members of our community safe
- Reduce unexpected costs for repairs

Vegetation management improves service reliability for you – our members!





ad connection

give away

EMPTY WOOD WIRE SPOOLS, various sizes. 451-7340.

FREE ONLINE CLASSIFIEDS, you place & remove your own ad on SWCE's website, [swce.coop](http://swce.coop), these are separate from Sparks & will not appear in Sparks unless mailed, delivered, faxd or emailed to SWCE.

wanted

FIELD CULTIVATOR, late model, 16-18', or soil finisher in gd cond., JD 980 or comparable model w/ harrow. 612-868-2851.

JUNKERS OR REPAIRABLES: cars, trucks, most farm equip., top \$ pd for junkers. 332-2300.

JD 5 MOWER. 279-2407.

WILL DO COMPACT TRACTOR WORK: tilling, plowing, bucket work, & blade work. 451-6046.

CRAFTERS for 20th Ann. Christmas for Veterans Homemade Craft & Bake Sale, Nov. 2, at Trinity Luth. Church, Owat., booth rentals are \$30/booth, donations welcome anytime during the yr. 271-3596.

PAINTING JOBS: houses, decks, barns, garages, & outbuildings. 213-4641.

USED/WASTE OIL, 200-gal. min. 420-7429.

ELEC. AUGER, 8"x41"; JD 693 CORN HEAD, prefer twin hookups (both in vry gd cond.). 451-9614.

FORD 4WD PICKUP. 213-9170/leave message.

TO HIRE OTR & PART-TIME DRIVERS in Waldorf. 239-2282 or 317-0130.

DOUBLE AUGER SNOWBLOWER, gd condition. 456-7614.

BIT to cut 4" hole. 663-1275.

HAY BALE WAGONS; DONKEY, medium to miniature. 421-8735.

USED VEHICLES, cheap; WILL REPAIR: snowblowers, lawn equip., & other small engines. 213-7978 or 475-1311.

2-BAG BAGGER W/BLOWER for JD mower. 676-7253.

for sale

(2) SIMMY-ANGUS HEIFERS. 291-0218.

Sparks Free Classified Ad Form for all SWCE Members

Ads need to be received in our office by September 5 to ensure being printed in the October Sparks. Please print neatly or type your ad of 20 words or less on this form. We reserve the right to edit ad copy to allow space for more ads. Ads received after the 5th will be printed in the November issue.

For Sale      Wanted      Give Away

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and mail to: SWCE, PO Box 485, Owatonna MN 55060-0485, or fax to: (507) 446-4242 or email your ad to: [sparks@swce.coop](mailto:sparks@swce.coop).

All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

BARITONE SAXOPHONE; BASS SAXOPHONE. 340-0506.

NEW VISION KZ TOY HAULER, \$14,900; KELLER 32' EXTENSION LADDER, \$250. 332-8673.

2002 HONDA GOLDWING TRIKE MOTORCYCLE, 1800cc, vry nice cond., 39,575 mi., has trailer hitch, light connection. 213-6427/txt.

26' DECKOVER TRAILER; MASSEY-HARRIS 44, \$1500; 2011 CHEVY 3500HD, 4x4, \$15,000. 402-7679.

HINIKER TRACTOR CAB, fits 4010D or newer, no cracks or broken windows, gd condition, \$600/obo. 456-2030/Terry.

VARIETY OF MEN'S & WOMEN'S OLD WEST/ FRONTIER CLOTHING incl. hats, skirts, vests, frocks, shirts, trousers & accessories.952-451-4821.

1959 IH 560 DIESEL TRACTOR, 8525-hrs, wide front end, \$4800/obo. 451-1859.

ENGINES, TRANS., MOST TRUCK & AUTO PARTS, 30-day warranty on engines. 332-2300.

500-GAL. DIESEL TANK w/elec. pump. 475-2322.

1978 FORESTER BOAT w/Spartan trailer, 1978 Mercury motor, 6-cyl. (motor needs wrk), 90-hp, \$600/ obo. 451-1160.

TRI-AXLE DUMP TRUCK AVAILABLE FOR ALL YOUR HAULING NEEDS: rock, gravel, dirt, etc., 15.5-ton capacity. 456-7774.

FREEZER, \$50; GM TRANSMISSION; REAR WINDOW 55-57 CHEV., \$200; DUAL EXHAUST PIPES, like new, \$150; GM CYLINDER HEADS. 456-7673.

2002 CHEVY SILVERADO 2500HD, crew cab, short bed, 225,000 mi., auto, V8 turbo diesel, 6.6L, 4WD, ext. green, int. gray, gd cond., ABS, AM/FM w/CD player, towing pkg, ARE topper, \$8500. 330-3432.

2001 SUNSEEKER RV/MOTOR HOME, 26', great cond., low mi., gas, auto, sleeps (6), \$19,900. 612-756-2005.

RENTAL, Izaak Walton League Bldg., 4 mi. south of Owat., seats 100, full kitchen, grill, Wi-Fi, \$100. 451-7946.

ON-SITE GRAIN BIN AERATION DYNAMIC FAN BALANCING & VIBRATION TROUBLESHOOTING, [www.cmtechnicalservices.com](http://www.cmtechnicalservices.com). 634-3409/Chuck.

'99 HANDICAPPED VAN, AWD, Ricon rear lift, raised roof, 60,000 mi., no rust, exc. cond.845-2228.

AGRI-FAB LEAF MULCHER & BLOWER, 9-hp Briggs & Stratton, 26-bu. mow & vac, new, \$875. 475-4584.

FRESH RASPBERRIES. 451-7585.

MINI STORAGE UNITS FOR RENT in Ellendale. 456-1460.

JD 6600 GAS COMBINE w/corn head & bean head, \$5000. 583-2134 or 456-9546.

CLIMATE CONTROLLED UNITS FOR RENT, 11'x9' to 16'x10'. 332-4623.

7' NEW HOLLAND SICKLE BAR, gd shape, little wear, \$50. 451-5121.

PUPPIES, tri collie & border collie, great w/kids, \$150/each or (2) for \$250. 320-0712.

(10) AUTHENTIC TIN ANTIQUE CEILING TILES, 24 3/8"x30 3/8", powder coated finish to silver gray, \$50 per tile. 456-2017.

MINI STORAGE UNITS, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

HEREFORD BULLS & HEIFERS; KATAHDIN HAIR SHEEP RAM & EWE LAMBS. 451-2722.

20' PONTOON OR BOAT LIFT on wheels w/new canopy, new cond., can txt photos,\$2500.210-1826.

BEACHFRONT VACATION CONDOS FOR RENT in Fort Myers Beach, South Padre Island & Mexico, visit [www.sandysbeachfrontcondo.com](http://www.sandysbeachfrontcondo.com) for details & photos. 612-865-9604/Sandy.

(2) TERRY REDLIN PRINTS, 30x24, Lights of Home & Quiet of the Evening, dated, number signed, limited edition framed & matted. 210-3782.

2007 ADVENTURER PICKUP TRUCK CAMPER, 810WS, clean, shower, fits on long or short box, stored inside, Dundas, \$7900. 321-0834.

(For Sale ads continued on Page 7)

travel

LOOKING FOR MOTOR COACH TOURS DEPARTING ALBERT LEA? Check us out at [www.4-seasonsvacations.com](http://www.4-seasonsvacations.com), or call us at the phone number listed below for the latest updates!

SMOKY MOUNTAINS, Oct. 28-Nov. 4. By deluxe motor coach, 7 nights accommodations, 15 meals, all day tour of Smoky Mtns; Grand Ole Opry, tour of Nashville, & more! \$1,519 pp w/2 per room.

ALL NEW PANAMA CANAL FROM FLORIDA by air, Jan. 11-23, 2020; 13-nights, new Agua Clara Locks, Caribbean Princess (all meals, entertain., gratuities on board); stops in Columbia, Panama, Costa Rica, Grand Cayman & Jamaica. Starts at \$3,299 per person w/2 per stateroom.

Call 4-Seasons at 800-328-4298 and reserve space today! Be sure to tell us you are Steele-Waseca members!



member connection

(Jim Wolters retirement continued from Page 1)

a big, big stretch.”

In a practice that holds true yet today at Steele-Waseca, the new line technician is paired with a veteran, “When I started on call, I was on call with Leon Blaha,” said Jim.

Jim credited the entire line crew in working with him, but one thing he noticed, “They were all good at climbing,” said Jim, noting his skill improved with practice, “Just go do it, get up there.”

As for advancements in equipment and technology, “When I first started there was two buckets, 12 guys, so did a lot of climbing, which is good, but now we have five buckets and 13 guys, so virtually the same crew, but now you can do a lot more work and still keep the line energized,” said Jim. “If there wasn’t a bucket truck available back when I started, we’d have to shut the line off, and then do it, and turn the line back on, so people would be out of power. Sometimes that wouldn’t work too good. People, they like their power, so now we got more buckets. You can do more work, safer.”

Wolters also reflected on the electronic technology, “Everybody has got an iPad now, whereas before you’d have a map book that might get updated about every three, four years,” said Jim. “If there is an outage, you can look at an app on your iPad, and you can see which area’s out of power. It’s kind of nice for big storms.”

Jim has experienced a wide range of storms during his 43-year career, but he still ranks the Halloween 1991 storm as

(EVs continued from Page 1)

et your clothes dryer uses overnight and it’d be fully charged and ready to go in the morning. This EV is a practical option for a practical person—no expertise with EVs necessary to fully enjoy the ride.

Weekend road-tripper

Let’s say you are that same type of 9-to-5 commuter but would prefer a car that can take you even farther on one charge. Enter: The 2019 Chevy Bolt, which boasts an all-electric range of 238 miles.

You could get through a regular work week with only plugging in your EV once, and would be able to drive straight from the office to happy hour one night and the kids’ game another without worrying about whether you’ll drain the battery.

the most challenging in his career.

“Obviously, it started out raining, then it got cold, so you got the ice,” recalled Jim. “After the ice storm and wind, then it got really cold. Seemed like it was ten below zero, and really windy... To get the line back up, you’d have to knock the ice off the wires, so you’d hit the wire with the hammer, then maybe like a foot, foot-and-a-half might fall off. You’d have to go down the whole span, otherwise the wire is too heavy to get up. Once you get it up, then you can jack it together and splice it, and it was so time consuming.

“Seemed like we had a lot of trees that were problems, whereas now more tree crews, they cut more trees year-round now, it just used to be part-time, but then after that ’91 ice storm, which was seven days long, that was Halloween. Thanksgiving we had another one that was like three days long. Christmas we had another one that was like one or two days maybe.”

In linking the past to today’s technology Jim recalled during the Halloween 1991 storm, “We’d patrol all the lines and wherever there was broken poles or whatever, we’d write them on a piece of paper,” described Jim. “Now we had the iPad, so we just hit a button, put a mark there, broken pole, so it’s a lot better. Everybody can see it.”

With the range of duties that line technicians are ready to work on, Wolters admitted his enjoyment of solving issues that impact the quality of power for members, “I enjoy finding a prob-

lem. People that have blinking lights, we can run down the line and find problems,” said Jim. “And pretty soon you might find the cracked cutout that was doing it, but yeah, I enjoy that part of it, and just meeting the people I guess.”

As for hand tool advancements, Wolters was quick to credit battery crimpers, “The old days it was just a manual crimper and they’re fine, but when you try working in a underground transformer, or a box, you didn’t have the room to pull the handles out wide you know, so now you just have a small crimper that you stick it in there, pull the trigger, and it crimps it,” described Jim. “So a battery crimper is a big improvement.”

When asked what he’ll remember in looking back at his career, “Miss the people I guess the biggest thing,” said Jim.

As for choosing a career as a line technician, “It’s a good job. What I liked about it, you’re out in the country, you see a lot of different things,” said Jim, “I like seeing the farmers put the crops in.”

Jim said his plans in retirement include hunting, fishing, and trapshooting.

His mother, LaVonne, still resides in Owatonna. He has a son, who lives near Hope, and three daughters, one who lives in Apple Valley, with the other two in Owatonna, and all together he has seven grandchildren.

Steele-Waseca wishes to thank Jim for his 43 years of dedicated service and to enjoy his retirement. **BY**

stores. You can add about 90 miles to your Bolt when plugged into a DC fast charger station, which are designed to charge EVs quickly and can be found in spots from Mankato to the metro and all the way up to Hinckley.

Off-roader

If you’re the average commuter who likes to take regular trips up north and are still wary about making a full switch from gasoline to electric, the Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV (plug-in hybrid electric vehicle) may be the best compromise.

This hybrid SUV gets 310 miles of range total with 22 of those being all-electric, and it is the only PHEV compatible with DC fast chargers. This means you can feel confident in getting all the way to your favorite long-week-

(EVs continued on Page 8)



If you do find yourself needing to get a quick charge in while you’re away from home, there are more than 200 public charging stations available throughout Minnesota at locations such as workplaces, restaurants and retail

sparks • september 2019



## cookin' connection

### Rhubarb Crisp

LaVerne Duban

Lonsdale

8 c. diced rhubarb  
4 eggs  
3 c. sugar or less  
4 T. flour  
cinnamon to sprinkle

**Crumble Topping:**  
1 c. butter or margarine  
1 c. brown sugar  
2 c. flour

Put diced rhubarb on a greased 9x12 cake pan. Mix eggs, sugar, flour, and pour over the rhubarb. Sprinkle cinnamon on top. Mix crumble topping ingredients of butter or margarine, brown sugar, and flour. Crumble and sprinkle over rhubarb mixture, then sprinkle top with cinnamon. Bake at 350° or 375° for 45-50 minutes.

Please use a 3 x 5 card when submitting your recipe. The member whose recipe is published will receive a \$7 energy credit.



Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's solar subscribers will see a 50 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during July 2019. Learn more about community solar and The Sunna Project by visiting Steele-Waseca's website, [swce.coop](http://swce.coop).

## Was your account number in Sparks?

Each month five account numbers are printed in *Sparks* and a total of \$35 in energy credits is divided among however many of those numbers are found. For example, if all numbers are found, a credit of \$7 will be applied to the members' following month's electric bills; or, if only one number is found, that member receives the full \$35 credit. Members finding their numbers who have a load management receiver on their dual fuel, electric water heater, air conditioner, or genset will receive an additional \$7 credit. When you find your number, phone our office no later than the 7th of the month following receipt of the *Sparks*, or the amount will be forfeited.

## August issue of Sparks



**Numbers found:**  
Brian Racek  
Benjamin/Doris Waknitz  
**Numbers not found:**  
Bruce Cake  
Cathleen Gasner  
Eric LaBere



## Sparks in brief . . .

• **Want easy energy payments?** Sign up for **EnergyPay Plus**, our automatic payment plan, or **Energy Prepay**, our discounted advance payment plan. Contact our office for details. You may also pay your bill online at [www.swce.coop](http://www.swce.coop). By entering your Steele-Waseca username and password you can also view a 13-month history of your account.

• **If you have changed or added phone numbers**, please contact SWCE to update your contact information.

• **Need a new water heater?** For information about our Westinghouse Electric Water Heater Program, phone Cindy Butterfield at our office between 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 446-4204 / 800-526-3514.

• **July temps** – The average high temperature for July was 81° F, while the average low was 64° F. This resulted in 231 Cooling Degree Days (CDDs), and 4 Heating Degree Days (HDDs). They compare to last year's average high of 81° F and average low of 61° F. This resulted in 193 CDDs and 7.5 HDDs.

• **ENERGY STAR® Rebates** – In 2019, all ENERGY STAR refrigerators/freezers (with recycling), electric clothes dryers, dehumidifiers, central air conditioners, air and ground source heat pumps, light emitting diode (LED) bulbs purchased (limit 5) are eligible to receive rebates (may not be combined with special promotions). Rebate request forms must be submitted within 90 days of purchase. Rebate forms are available at [www.swce.coop](http://www.swce.coop). For more information or to receive a rebate request form, phone Cindy Butterfield at 446-4204 or 800-526-3514.

• **Steele-Waseca's tree service contractor** – Carr's Tree Service, Inc., is contracted to do SWCE's tree trimming. To report a tree concern, phone:

**507-451-7340 / 800-526-3514**

**STEELE COUNTY TIP LINE**  
**866-878-7964**  
TO BE USED TO REPORT ANY CRIME OR  
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY ANONYMOUSLY  
  
COVERS ALL OF STEELE COUNTY  
INCLUDING THE CITIES OF:  
**OWATONNA ELLENDALE**  
**BLOOMING PRAIRIE MEDFORD**

## health & safety connection

### Steele-Waseca holds an all-staff emergency mayday drill using a cell phone

by Shari Wormwood, Minnesota Rural Electric Association Communication Specialist (as published in the July 2019 MREA Report)

When Jack Schwab, Steele-Waseca Electric Cooperative safety manager, and lineman of 29 years began planning his first mayday drill as Steele-Waseca's new safety manager, he wondered about using a cell phone for the call. He scheduled a meeting with the directors of the Rice & Steele 911 Center to inquire about this, and the meeting ended up lasting almost three hours. The center directors convinced Jack that using a cell phone is the quickest way to get help above all other systems. Minnesota 911 centers are also very interested in organizations holding mayday drills to enhance their dispatcher's knowledge and experience.

Jack shared, "In Steele Waseca's case our line workers all have radios in their trucks. During the day, a radio mayday emergency call goes to somebody in the office, and that person is to collect the information and then dial 911. We now strongly encourage our people to use their cell phone; to get help the quickest way possible." The county dispatch centers welcome cell phone calls and texts if a call isn't possible. Safety managers and line workers should review this Minnesota text to 911 - Call if you can, text if you can't fact sheet, which was deployed across the state in December 2017.

After meeting with the Rice & Steele 911 Center, Jack arranged to shut down the Steele-Waseca office for a company-wide mayday drill. The drill scenario featured a lineman who had collapsed in a bucket. The bucket was in

contact with a power line, and the condition of the lineman was unknown. The crew didn't know where the lines were or if they were live. Within seconds, the dispatcher had the address of the caller. Because the cell came in on a cell phone, a triangulation process with three cell towers was used to determine the location. After the drill, the Steele-Waseca line crew updated their tailgate process to include writing down the job address before they start a job; for quick reference in case, an accident occurs.

The Steele-Waseca staff also learned about the National Grid System, an alphanumeric system, in place at the Rice & Steele 911 Center. If you identify a grid

number to a 911 operator, they immediately know where you are. The eight or ten-digit number identifies exact locations on earth. Staff members practiced using an app with a 10-digit alphanumeric number that can locate a person within one square meter. As time goes on, people will use these apps when reporting accidents, abductions, and foul play.

The Rice and Steele 911 Center

sent a representative to the cooperative during the drill because they knew there would be questions. There were a lot of them, all the way down to, "Hey, if I have an electrical burn and want to go to Regions, am I able to do so?" They made it clear that the local EMT is going to decide where to transfer a victim. Great River Energy Field Training Specialist Tom Huber also attended and afterward, he asked if the Rice & Steele 911 Center would coordinate a drill for the GRE facility in Elk River.

"Because we had the victim down in the bucket," Jack shared, "the local dispatch followed protocol to roll the

(Mayday drill continued on Page 7)

# OKTOBERFEST

**St. John Lutheran Church**  
1301 Lincoln Avenue • Owatonna, MN • 507-451-7293  
[www.stjohnowatonna.org](http://www.stjohnowatonna.org)

## Sunday - September 29

<b>Polka Worship Service</b> <i>featuring Irv Arndt on the concertina</i> <b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Roasted Pork Loins and</b> <b>Ol' Fashioned Hot Dog Dinners</b> <i>served with fresh</i> <b>Homemade Sauerkraut, German Potato Salad,</b> <b>Mashed Potatoes, cooked Red Cabbage,</b> <b>Carrots,</b> <b>Lemonade, Coffee,</b> <b>and Dessert (apple or chocolate)</b>
<b>Early Bird Sales</b> <b>9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.</b>	
<b>Booths Re-open,</b> <b>Dinner, Games</b> <b>11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.</b>	<b>\$10</b> adults <b>\$5</b> age 10 & under <b>FREE</b> under age 5

## Steele-Waseca members alert co-op of scam attempts

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric received two calls from members on Monday, Aug. 5, who reported receiving a call stating their power was going to be shut off for non-payment. 1034293

Both members were current and not past due on their Steele-Waseca account. One member stated the caller ID said Xcel Energy. Both stated the automated recording provided a call back number, but neither called the phone number provided.

Scammers use various tactics to con consumers into providing payment. If you are behind on your Steele-Waseca bill, the co-op will mail a written notice before the co-op utilizes a service to call you and remind you of your past due balance. Members who have not received a disconnection notice in the mail should not engage anyone on the phone, or by email, demanding a payment. Instead, members should hang up and

(Scam attempts continued on Page 7)